

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10  
OIC-02 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-09 SP-02  
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /202 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2453  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC, AORG, PORG, UN  
SUBJECT: SUMMER ECOSOC 1978 - ITEM 20, NATURAL  
RESOURCES (JULY 17, 18)

REF: GENEVA 10646

1. FIRST COMMITTEE CONCLUDED DEBATE OF ITEM 20, WITH  
STATEMENTS BY FOLLOWING REPS: PORTUGAL, UNESCO, AUSTRIA,  
USA, VENEZUELA, KENYA, FRG, FRANCE, UK, IRAQ, JAPAN,  
UNIDO, GREECE, MALTA, WMO, YUGOSLAVIA, CUBA, INDIA,  
AND IRAN.

2. THE UNEP/UNIDO INTERIM REPORT ON PROGRESS IN  
EXPANDING USE OF COAL AND THE SEC-GEN'S REPORT ON  
FEASIBILITY OF HOLDING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (NRE) WERE  
ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY DELEGATIONS TO ECOSOC.  
NEARLY ALL NATIONS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO 1979 WORLD  
SYMPOSIUM ON COAL IN POLAND. IN ADDITION TO SUPPORTING  
EXPLORING COAL AS ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF ENERGY, SOME  
NATIONS INDICATED THE NECESSITY FOR NEW MECHANISMS  
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FOR DEALING WITH COAL-RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.  
VENEZUELA EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER TO ASSIST LDCS IN RESEARCH  
IN EXPANDED COAL USES. JAPAN SUGGESTED THAT SYG ISSUE  
REPORT IDENTIFYING CONSTRAINTS TO COAL DEVELOPMENT,  
SO THAT CONSUMER AND PRODUCER NATIONS COULD DEVELOP  
POLICIES TO DEAL WITH CONSTRAINTS. PORTUGAL REP

CRITICIZED INTERIM REPORT FOR NOT ELABORATING  
SUFFICIENTLY ON IMPORTANCE OF COAL RESEARCH AND  
EXPLOITATION TO LDCS.

3. REGARDING NRE, THE MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED  
STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE, ITS AGENDA,  
AND TIMING (1981). DUE TO THE IMPENDING THREAT OF OIL  
DEPLETION, THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND  
THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE OIL PRICE INCREASES, MOST  
DELEGATIONS VIEWED THE 1981 CONFERENCE AS BEING FEASIBLE  
AND DESIRABLE. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONFERENCE  
SHOULD BE TECHNICAL AND DEAL WITH THE BROAD RANGE OF  
GLOBAL ENERGY PROBLEMS. A STRICT AGENDA SHOULD BE  
ADOPTED, WITH NO ALLOWANCE FOR DISCUSSION OF EXTRANEIOUS  
QUESTIONS. THE MAIN THRUST OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE  
ON CAPABILITY OF PRESENTLY KNOWN RESOURCES TO MEET  
GLOBAL REQUIREMENTS AND AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF FUTURE  
ENERGY SOURCE POSSIBILITIES. IT SHOULD ALSO BE A FORUM  
FOR EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AMONG ALL NATIONS,  
REGARDLESS OF INDIVIDUAL ENERGY RESOURCES OR MARKET  
STATURE. NRE SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE EFFORTS IN OTHER FORA.  
RESULTS OF TCDC AND CSTD CONFERENCES SHOULD BE INCORPO-  
RATED INTO PLANNING FOR NRE. COMMUNISTS AND LDCS CALLED  
FOR NUCLEAR FUSION TO BE AMONG NEW ENERGY SOURCES  
INCLUDED ON THE NRE AGENDA OF DISCUSSION ITEMS. IT WAS  
STRESSED THAT REGIONAL COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE A KEY ROLE  
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IN PREPARATION FOR NRE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SHOULD  
REFLECT PARTICIPATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THE  
EEC REP (FRG) AND OTHER DELEGATIONS SAID PREPARATORY  
WORK SHOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. FRANCE NOTED THAT THE  
ENERGY CRISIS IS AHEAD OF US, NOT BEHIND US. CANADA  
REQUESTED A CLARIFICATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NRE  
AND CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

4. THE OPEC MEMBERS CRITICIZED "SOME COUNTRIES" FOR  
OVER UTILIZING HYDROCARBONS. YUGOSLAVIA AND CUBA  
JOINED THE OPEC MEMBERS IN NEGATIVENESS TOWARDS NRE.  
IN THEIR VIEW, THE CNRET DOCUMENTATION WAS RECEIVED  
MUCH TOO LATE FOR A DECISION ON NRE TO BE TAKEN AT  
ECOSOC. DECISION ON NRE SHOULD BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS.  
FURTHERMORE, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN EXPERT  
AND CONSULTATIVE GROUPS INVOLVED IN NRE PREPARATION,  
"SINCE ENERGY CONCERNS SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIONS OVER  
NATURAL RESOURCES". IRAQ INSISTED THAT NRE SHOULD NOT  
"ISOLATE PETROLEUM", AS SOME DCS WERE TRYING TO DO.  
PREPARATION SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON NRE AS ASSETS OF  
LDCS. MORE CLEAR OBJECTIVES AND A STRICT AGENDA SHOULD  
BE DEVELOPED. THE OPEC MEMBERS, YUGOSLAVIA, AND CUBA

CALLED FOR A DELAY IN THE TIMING OF NRE, SINCE 1981 WAS TOO SOON TO ALLOW FOR FULL PREPARATORY STAGE, INCLUDING SUFFICIENT TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR POSITIONS ON NRE AGENDA ITEMS. ECOSOC SHOULD MERELY TAKE NOTE OF UNEP/UNIDO REPORT AND RECOMMEND IT TO GA FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS. KENYAN STATEMENT WAS MERELY SUPPORTIVE OF BOTH INTERIM COAL REPORT AND NRE, WITH NO OTHER NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS.

5. THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES CALLED FOR NRE PREPARATIONS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. IRAN, WHILE SUPPORTING CONCEPT OF NRE AND THE CALL FOR MORE CLEARLY STATED

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OBJECTIVES, SUGGESTED MORE FLEXIBILITY ON TIMING. IRAN FELT THAT A THREE-YEAR PREPARATORY PERIOD WOULD PROVIDE NEEDED FLEXIBILITY.

6. UNIDO REP SAID NRE WAS FEASIBLE AND DESIRABLE, AS WELL AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH LIMA DECLARATION'S GOALS FOR LDCS' ECONOMIC GROWTH. "ENERGY IS THE MAJOR LIMITING FACTOR TO DEVELOPMENT". WITHOUT EFFORTS, SUCH AS PROPOSED NRE, ENERGY SITUATION FOR MOST DEVELOPING NATIONS WILL BE DISASTROUS AND LIMA DECLARATION'S TARGETS WOULD DISAPPEAR.

7. DIRECTOR (BAUM) OF CENTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES ENERGY AND TRANSPORT, IN WRAP-UP STATEMENT, ADDRESSED VARIOUS POINTS MADE BY DELEGATIONS DURING ITEM 20 DEBATE. PROPOSED NRE WAS MERELY ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH.

AS FOR SOURCES OF ENERGY INCLUDED ON AGENDA, THOSE MENTIONED IN FEASIBILITY REPORT WERE LIMITED TO THE ONES MENTIONED IN ORIGINAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2119 (LXIII) REQUESTING REPORT. HOWEVER, IT IS UP TO MEMBERS TO FINALLY DECIDE SCOPE AND SOURCES TO BE DISCUSSED AT NRE. IF ECOSOC TAKES DECISION ON NRE, FINANCIAL

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IMPLICATIONS ADDENDUM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY TENTATIVE ESTIMATE. FINAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WILL COME WHEN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS GROUP TAKE DECISION ON CONFERENCE AND ITS SCOPE. PREPARATIONS FOR NRE WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER GUIDANCE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY, WITH CNRET PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. EXPERTS AND DOCUMENTS WOULD BE SELECTED, IN CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS, AND REPRESENT A BALANCE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE IN BOTH DCS AND LDCS.

8. MALTA OFFERED TO HOST NRE.

9. TEXT OF USDEL'S (CARDWELL) STATEMENT REGARDING COAL WAS REPEAT OF REMARKS CONTAINED IN US POSITION PAPER. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF USDEL'S REMARKS ON NRE:

"MR. CHAIRMAN,

MY DELEGATION'S REMARKS ON THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY WILL BE BRIEF. WE SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL, AND BELIEVE THE COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE A POSITIVE DECISION ON HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IN 1981.

THE ASSURANCE OF MY GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE ALREADY COMES FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL. SPEAKING AT GOLDEN, COLORADO, EARLIER THIS YEAR, PRESIDENT CARTER PLEDGED THIS SUPPORT, IN THE HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD HASTEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE PRESIDENT NOTED THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF THE

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DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH TECHNOLOGIES TO OUR OWN COUNTRY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE BENEFITS MAY BE EVEN GREATER, AND EVEN SOONER, IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS STATEMENT PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT LEAVES OPEN A NUMBER OF VARIANTS, WITH DIFFERENT COSTS. MY DELEGATION WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN DETAIL IN THE APPROPRIATE ORGANS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY."

10. COMMENT: DISCUSSION ON ITEM TENDS TO CONFIRM INFORMATION WE GAIN FROM CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS, I.E. THAT OPEC MEMBERS HAVE RESERVATIONS ON NRE AND WOULD PREFER PUTTING OFF DECISION TO 33RD GA. G-77 HAVE HAD FORMAL DISCUSSION ON QUESTION, BUT USDEL UNSURE OF OUTCOME AND HENCE OF FATE OF DRAFT RESOLUTION (REFTEL).

VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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